

March 10, 2017

To: Workforce and Talent Development Committee Members

Ben Frederick, Committee Chair
Bronna Kahle, Majority Vice-Chair
Kathy Crawford
Brandt Iden
Eric Leutheuser
Jason Wentworth
Leslie Love, Minority Vice-Chair
Erika Geiss
Bettie Scott

As a law enforcement officer, your respect for our work means more than you can know. Given the challenges of letting young people know about law enforcement careers, your leadership in passing HB 4181 would be another way to strengthen our profession, and the security of our nation.

School counselors in our children's schools are a critical resource as they explore the available options after graduation. However, the advice counselors give is only as effective as the information they have. Information about vocational schools, certificate programs, and law enforcement options needs to be constantly updated, especially in ever-changing fields like defense and public safety, which are key elements of the counties and communities you serve.

We are writing as members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids to **urge you to support House Bill 4181**. Fight Crime: Invest In Kids is a national nonprofit organization of more than 5,000 law enforcement leaders, including more than 330 members in Michigan.

Our years in law enforcement have shown us that there are far too many people — especially young men — who lack the education or programmatic credentials to obtain an economically viable job. We know, for example, that seven out of ten prisoners in state facilities have not graduated from high school. HB 4181 ensures that school counselors will receive updated information every five years before their licenses are renewed. This is a small step towards providing counselors with the information they need to help those young adults find opportunities after graduation that fit their needs while keeping them off the streets and making our communities safer.

One study shows that a long-term decline in wages and employment opportunities for non-college-educated men may correlate to as much as half of property and violent-crime rates. Ensuring that counselors are prepared to inform our students of not only excellent traditional post-secondary options, but also vocational, certificate, and local community college options that could help more students find sustainable employment and help decrease those crime rates.

Boji Tower Suite 1220 • Lansing, MI 48933 • Phone (517) 371-3565 • Fax (517) 371-3567 • www.fightcrime.org/mi

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a membership organization of law enforcement leaders and crime victims under the umbrella non-profit Council for a Strong America

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On behalf of the citizens and district you serve, we are grateful for your tireless efforts to strengthen and expand education options for our students and families. Combined with the work you've done to spearhead many forward-looking initiatives, your leadership in passing House Bill 4181 can provide more of the essential tools needed to make our community safer and the best place for young people to learn and become productive citizens.

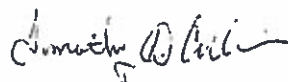
Sincerely,



Corey K. Haines
Chief of Police
Madison Heights

Doreen Olko
Chief of Police
City of Auburn Hills

Deana Finnegan
Prosecutor
Shiawassee County



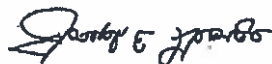
Timothy D. Collins
Chief of Police
Ferndale



Tim Parker
Sheriff
Hillsdale County



Timothy Bourgeois
Chief of Police
Kalamazoo Township



Joseph E. George
Chief of Police
Orchard Lake

Janet Burt
Violence Survivor